

ALDEBURGH



Borough of Aldeburgh



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1966

C. H. IMRIE.



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The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Aldeburgh

Mr. Mayor,

Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1966. This report is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health and follows the pattern of previous years.

I would like to thank the Council and Officers for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. IMRIE

Medical Officer of Health.

# C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
Public Health Officers of the Authority .....	3	
General Statistics .....	4	
Vital Statistics - Population, Births & Deaths, Comparability Figures	5	1 & 2
Deaths by Causes .....	6	3
Notifiable Diseases .....	7	4
Local Health Authority Immunisation Figures ...	8	
Housing Report and Statistics .....	9	5
Water Supply - Report .....	10	6
Chemical Analysis .....	11	
Refuse and Sewage Disposal .....	12	7
Safety on Beach .....	12	9
Food Hygiene - Report .....	12	8
Food Premises Statistics .....	13	
Pest Control .....	13	
National Assistance Act .....	13	
Factories Act .....	14	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

C. H. Imrie, T.D., M.B., ChB., D.P.H.,  
Late Hon. Surgeon to H.M. The Queen.

Public Health Inspectors

G. H. Smith, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (until 1st November 1966)  
J. A. Thompson, M. Inst. H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.  
(from 1st December 1966)  
H. Young, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

# GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough ..... 2,679 acres  
 Rateable Value ..... £121,964  
 Product of ld. Rate ..... £485

	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Population	3,070	3,060	2,970	2,970	2,920
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	11.4 (35)	13.4 (41)	13.2 (36)	13.8 (41)	16.1 (47)
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	32 (1)	-	-	-	-
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	21.8 (67)	15.03 (46)	19.8 (59)	15.2 (45)	18.5 (54)
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live births	28.5 (1)	24.3 (1)	27.7 (1)	-	-

Figures in brackets are the  
 actual number of  
 births and deaths.

Population - Births and DeathsAldeburgh

- (1) The Registrar General's estimate of population for the year 1966 indicates a small increase in that year when compared with the previous year. Although this is only an increase of 10 persons it does maintain the general upward trend but at an extremely slow rate. Over the past 5 years the population increase in Aldeburgh was 150.
- (2) The number of live births was 35, which is slightly below the average for the past 5 years. On the other hand, the deaths at 67 were rather above the average for that same period. The resulting Birth and Death rates when compared with the rates for England and Wales are in the case of the Birth Rate lower and in the case of the Death Rate higher than the corresponding rates for the whole country. The small numbers involved, however, do not permit of us drawing more than the most general conclusions and have therefore little significance.

<u>Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	19	15	34
Illegitimate	-	1	1
<u>Still Births</u>			
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>All Deaths</u>	30	37	67
<u>Infantile Deaths</u>	1	-	1
<u>Deaths associated with Childbirth</u>	-	-	-

Comparability

For the purpose of statistical comparison with other districts of different sizes and composition, the Registrar General supplies a factor which, when applied to our Birth and Death Rates gives the following results:-

<u>Birth Rate</u>	-	Aldeburgh per 1,000 population	..... 12.54
		England and Wales per 1,000 population..	17.7
<u>Death Rate</u>	-	Aldeburgh per 1,000 population	..... 15.06
		England and Wales per 1,000 population..	11.7



- (3) The breakdown of deaths into their various causes reveals a pattern very similar to that of previous years. The diseases associated with the heart and circulation account for approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  of all deaths. This proportion seems to be increasing in recent years. Deaths from malignant diseases, however, despite the increase which has been noted in the national figures, have been decreasing in Aldeburgh over the past few years. Here again the numbers are small and the significance is problematical.

There were no deaths from causes associated with childbirth, pregnancy or abortion and only one death from a notifiable disease, in this case, Tuberculosis.

		1964	1965	1966		
				Male	Female	Total
1 to 9	Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	-	1	-	1	1
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1	2	-	2
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	1	-	1	-	1
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	3	1	1	-	1
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	-	-	-	-
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	7	1	1	2
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-
16	Diabetes	1	1	-	-	-
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous/ System	8	10	1	7	8
18	Coronary Diseases, Angina	14	9	8	10	18
19 & 20	Hypertension with Heart Disease	7	-	2	3	5
21	Other Circulatory Diseases	5	4	3	7	10
22	Influenza	-	1	-	-	-
23	Pneumonia	4	3	-	-	-
24	Bronchitis	3	1	3	-	3
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory/ System	-	1	-	-	-
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	1	1	2
27	Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	-	-	1	-	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	-	-	-
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	1	1	-	1
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth & Abortion	-	-	-	-	-
31	Congenital Malformations	-	1	-	-	-
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	3	5	5	10
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	-	-	-
34	All other Accidents	2	-	-	2	2
35	Suicide	1	-	-	-	-
36	Homicide and actions of war	-	-	-	-	-
		59	46	30	37	67



(4) Notifiable Disease

Notifiable disease was reported on only two occasions during the year, one relating to a case of Measles and the other to Tuberculosis, both being received in August. The measles case was a school child while the case of tuberculosis was a young adult female. Measles is, of course, a disease which follows a definite cycle and appears as a minor epidemic every second year. The Tuberculosis notification was a case of the pulmonary type. One case was removed from the Tuberculosis Register during the year, which leaves the total number of cases the same at the beginning and end of the period.

Tuberculosis

	Males		Females		Total
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Number of cases on Register at 1st January 1966	1	-	2	2	5
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time	-	-	1	-	1
Number of cases restored to Register after being removed	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases added to Register otherwise than by notification	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases removed from Register during year	-	-	-	1	1
Number of cases remaining on Register at 31st December 1966	1	-	3	1	5

In connection with the responsibility of the Local Health Authority to provide for immunisation against certain diseases I have to thank the County Medical Officer for details of immunisation carried out in the Town.

The figures are appended below:-

	<u>Primary Courses</u>	<u>Booster Dose or Revaccination</u>
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis	35	18
Diphtheria/Pertussis	-	-
Diphtheria/Tetanus	-	35
Tetanus	5	4
Salk Poliomyelitis vaccine	2	22
Fabin Poliomyelitis Oral vaccine	27	27
Smallpox vaccination	26	1

## Housing

- (5) In 1966 the number of Council houses completed was 14 while a further 8 houses were provided by private building. By the end of the year the total number of Council houses in occupation was 193.

The problem of supplying housing accommodation to those who need it has gradually eased over the years. What was once the most urgent social problem in the country has in many areas reached a stage of comparative equilibrium when the supply more or less balances the demand. While Aldeburgh has not yet attained this state the need for more houses has slackened considerably in the past few years and it seems probable that in the not very distant future the supply will approximate more closely to the demand.

Housing Statistics for the year will be found below:-

No. of Council Houses completed during the year	..	14
No. of Council Houses occupied at 31.12.66	..	193
No. of Private Houses completed during the year	..	8
Total number of units of accommodation within the		
Borough	..	1342
No. of Houses inspected	..	27
No. unsatisfactory	..	3
No. rendered fit by informal action	..	3
Abatement Notices served	..	Nil
No. of Demolition Orders secured	..	Nil
No. of dwellings included in Clearance Orders	..	Nil
No. of dwellings demolished	..	Nil
No. of Improvement Grants - Discretionary		4
No. of Improvement Grants - Standard	..	9

## Water Supply

- (6) The water supply to the Town has been described in previous reports. The water continues to be of a good organic quality, although the salinity and hardness are rather high. It has proved sufficient in quantity for normal demands but the amount which can be extracted in a given time has its limits, and the available storage only amounts to 36,000 galls. which is equivalent to a 2 hours' supply for the Town. Like much of East Anglian water the Town supply has a low fluoride content which renders it less valuable than it might be. This lack of mineral content could of course be easily remedied and such a measure has the active support of the Ministry of Health. Unfortunately the County Council as Health Authority does not take the same view.

Fluoridation in a situation such as this has been shown to provide a high degree of protection to children's teeth without undesired side effects. Indeed it is now being thought in some quarters that it has in addition a beneficial effect on the health and strength of the adult skeletal system in general. In my opinion such a measure would be both safe and healthgiving.

Eight samples of water taken at intervals for examination produced no growth on bacteriological cultures.

The analysis is given on Page 11.

## CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample taken from	...	...	No.1 Sump, Aldeburgh Waterworks
Date received	...	...	24th August 1966
Appearance	...	...	Clear
Nature of deposit	...	...	Nil
Colour	...	...	Nil
Taste	...	...	Satisfactory
Reaction	...	...	Faintly alkaline 7.4

## RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen	...	Neg. trace
Albuminoid nitrogen	...	0.01
Nitrate nitrogen	...	7.5
Nitrite nitrogen	... 11 -	nil
Chlorine as chlorides	...	280
Oxygen absorbed (4 hr. 27°C.)	...	0.2
Hardness as $\text{CaCO}_3$		
Total	...	450
Carbonate (temporary)	...	210
Non-carbonate (permanent)	...	240
Alkalinity as $\text{CaCO}_3$	...	210
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	20
Total Solids at 180	...	875
Iron Total	...	0.12
Metals in solution other than iron		Nil

## OPINION

This water is of very good organic quality and there is no chemical evidence of pollution. The salinity of this water is higher than we have recorded in any previous sample taken in the last twelve years, and is now equivalent to a salt (sodium chloride) content of 460 parts per million. The presence of this proportion of salt is harmless, but consumers drinking this water for the first time would probably complain of the taste.

The water is very hard, the total hardness being nearly 32° Clark, and the total dissolved solids are also very high. Nevertheless, from the point of view of its effect on health, this water is quite fit for drinking purposes.

for Lincolne Sutton and Wood Limited,

(sgd.) E. C. Wood.



## Refuse and Sewage Disposal

- (7) The arrangements for refuse disposal in 1966 were similar to those of the previous year, dry refuse being dealt with by the pulveriser, which produces a satisfactory end product.

The sewage scheme which has been discussed for so long did not make much progress during the year. This is a commodity which is urgently needed in Aldeburgh and it is to be hoped that the progress towards fruition will be smoother and more rapid.

- (8) The hygienic handling of food is essential to the health of the community and this is especially important in a holiday resort such as Aldeburgh. While legislation concerning hygiene is important, it can only be effective when combined with knowledge and a sense of responsibility among food traders. The frequent visits and inspections by the Public Health Inspector are of the utmost importance in seeing that every food handler knows what to do and why. Figures relative to this subject will be found on Page 13.

- (9) The Beach is probably the most popular attraction in Aldeburgh, especially to the younger people, a large proportion of whom either swim, bathe or paddle. While Aldeburgh has a good record for safety on the beach and in the water, I feel that any safety arrangements should be reviewed periodically to ensure that they meet the requirements of time and situation.

At the moment life saving equipment consists of two life belts located on the beach. In addition the coastguards keep a look out and can warn the Lifeboat personnel in case of difficulties. There are no warning flags, no instructions of action to be taken in cases of difficulty and no organised beach patrol. While it might well be that these are not necessary, I feel that a periodic review might be worth while.



NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Section 47 - No action required.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

Premises where treatments were carried out

Dwellinghouses - 53

Other Premises - 8

FOOD PREMISES

Number of Food Premises by type of business

Grocers	12	Ice Cream	13
Dairies	2	Butchers	3
Licensed Premises	17	Fried and Wet Fish	2
Bakers	3	Greengrocers	5
Sweets other than grocers	4	Cafés	3

Number of Food Premises Registered under Section 16  
of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Ice Cream Dealers	13	Sausage Manufacturers	3
No. of Inspections of Registered Premises....			63
No. found unsatisfactory.....			5
No. rendered satisfactory.....			3

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959  
Prescribed Particulars on the Administration  
of the Factories Act, 1937

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	12	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	12	17	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	19	29	-	-
Totals	34	58	-	-

	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	2	2	2	-	-
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	2	2	-	-



